

# **State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Council**

## **Meeting #58 - Notes**

**December 7, 2016**

**Scheduled: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning

2109 S Stoughton Rd, Madison, WI

### **Call to Order**

Conference call initiated and three committee members present by phone

Stacy Grandt facilitates the running of the meeting and agenda agreed upon by the committee.

### **Committee members present:**

**Pete Dally** – WCBVI Center Director

**Julie Hapeman** – Wisconsin Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (WAER-BVI) O&M/TVI

**Steve Lutzke** – Parkview School District Administrator

**Linda Vincent** – Management Librarian of Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL)

**Cheryl Orgas** – Executive Director of Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement (ABLE)- by phone

**Chris Zenchenko** – Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired: attended- by phone

**Staphanie Klas** – Parent of a Visually Impaired Student – by phone

### **Committee members absent:**

Sadiqua White-Harper – Milwaukee Public Schools TVI/O&M

Nissan Bar-Lev – Chair/CESA 7 Special Education Director

Kediboyne Carpenter – Parent of a Visually Impaired Student

Tonya Olson – Parent of a Visually Impaired Student

Jen Collins – Higher Education; UW-Platteville

Mary Spidell – Public School District Representative; VI Special Services Supervisor, MPS

Nancy Thompson – WASB Representative; Waterloo School Board

Fred Wollenburg – CESA; Special Education Director, CESA 5

### **Other attendees:**

**Stacy Grandt** – WCBVI Outreach Director, facilitates current meeting

**Holly Adams** – WCBVI Outreach-Office Operations Associate (Scribe)

**Martha Berninger** – Director of RL&LL; interest in how RL&LL can best provide content that RL&LL licenses to meet the needs of those it serves (providing statewide services to educators, libraries, and Wisconsin residents)

## **Introductions**

All in attendance state their name and affiliation

- It is decided that this is an informational meeting as it does not meet quorum for decision making (19 positions, 15 positions filled, and only 6 members present). At least 8 members/majority of committee members must agree to a motion to make a decision.

## **Public input and comments**

An opportunity for members of the public attending the meeting to make comments or raise issues of concern is designated for this time.

- Concern regarding whether the public has ample opportunity to be notified of Advisory Council Meetings
- Julie normally sees these from the listserv but did not see it this way for this December meeting (oversight to promote on Listserv for this meeting?)
  - Committee wonders if the public got a chance to comment.
    - Stephanie – how do parents of kids who do not have a listserv, etc., be provided with knowledge of the Advisory Council? How would they know that the State Superintendent’s Advisory Council even exists?
      - As a parent, her main contact is her child’s vision teacher; Are there other ways to inform parents about the council and meetings?
- It is agreed that the committee make sure the notice gets out to the public and that other ways to announce the meetings be explored
  - Ideas for notifying the public of the Advisory Committee meeting:
    - Listserv
      - Listserv is helpful but thinks that this notice needs to be on the government and DPI website
      - Stacy will provide notice to families of Advisory Council meetings

- DPI Website on the 'Programs for the Visually Impaired' page (<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/program/vision>) just as the link 'Deaf and Hard of Hearing' provides its Advisory Council information (<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/program/deaf-hard-of-hearing/advisory>): The State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Deaf/Hard of Hearing Programs webpage explains the purpose and functioning of the Council, when the next meeting will be with the agenda, the council membership list, and all past meetings' minutes
  - Martha has a note out to the DPI about helping design this page and is waiting to hear back on this proposal
    - Pete will talk to Barbara Van Haren
    - Stacy will talk to Jim Verbick about posting minutes
- If Special Education has a website template, we should be following this
  - Concern about information getting to the public from here: State agency websites are often hard to navigate to find this info; also, how many people would think to look on the DPI site for this info?
- Google Groups for Parents
- As Parent Liaisons, could D. Ballmann and D. Hyde organize a list and email notification to parents? (C.O.)
- Outreach Newsletter raise awareness about this advisory council (S.K.)
- Add Tab on WCBVI website (P.D.)

## **Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning and Talking Book and Braille Library Updates**

Linda Vincent joins conversation; Linda and Martha report on their meeting with folks from DPI regarding collaboration with outreach:

- 26 books up on the BARD website (2,000 of those books in circulation)
  - Who could be using BadgerLink? Goal to come up with ways that Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. (ABLE) and Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) and other such organizations can work together
  - Traded notes on connecting with healthcare organization, aging population, and other demographics...
  - Better dialog on how to *do outreach better* and collaborate with one another (cross-promotion and help promote each other)
  - Next budget cycle, look for ways to increase funding for all
  - Shared Outreach materials
  - Everyone has a better understanding about what programs they provide.....

- TBBL hasn't presented in a really long time; Martha has asked that they present at next meeting in Milwaukee

### **Forward Exam/UEB Testing Update**

- Forward Exam is being presented in both EBAE and UEB braille codes
  - Many opportunities to learn UEB: WCBVI, Hadley, and many other online training opportunities
  - WCBVI believes it is best to present the Forward Exam ONLY in UEB
- Cheryl and Stacy were asked by the council to draft a statement/justification and reasoning for this to include with the advisory council's recommendation. Those in attendance agreed that the statement was succinct and needed no additions. Council also agrees that the sooner the exam is offered in only UEB, the better.
- IEP team has ultimate decision on what the student uses leading up to the exam (even though the state of Wisconsin will only produce materials in UEB and Nemeth code)
  - WI is not encouraging or supporting anything other than Nemeth for Math and scientific notation
  - Steve – If we don't have uniformity across the state, the test results will not be the same
    - Assessment and tests will be in Nemeth for the Forward Exam (why would teachers support any other code?)
  - Nissan was going to send out the draft to committee, get majority vote to move forward to DPI, and Stacy would like to urge Nissan to send out so that it can move forward to DPI in order for the field to get a strong statement on this
  - Members of the council support statement to administer the Forward Exam in ONLY UEB and Nemeth
    - Council attendees agree that an electronic vote is necessary for the statement on UEB/Forward Exam to move forward to DPI

Pete contact Nissan when minutes go out in order to discuss the above statement

- **Regarding Forward Exam Content and accessibility:**

- Assessment team and DRC (Data Recognition Corporation) got together to look at the validity of test with regard to its accessibility for students with visual impairments
  - Dawn Soto, Julie Stroh, Julie Sumwalt last year
  - Dawn Soto, Maria Schoville, Julie Sumwalt this year



- It would be worthwhile to check in with UW-Madison on how they do this to use software for other purposes
- Web interface for distance-learning (UWM) that lets you play a college lecture and get info about each lecture that includes an accessible distance learning tool that includes ways to magnify, speed-up or slow down lectures, etc.
- APH conference
  - Graphiti Graphics Display
  - APH came out with this display that you can hook up to your computer
  - Prototype line is scheduled for March (final version coming out quite a while from now)
  - Pete signed up to be part of the beta testing on this
  - Testing – tactile graphic accuracy not always accurate
    - WCBVI purchased Tiger Embosser
  - Graffiti Dynamic Tactile Graphic Display may be a very cost-effective solution
  - Will be a great way for teaching and testing

Pete will send the link for beta test sign up

- Does APH keep a library of files to generate tactile graphics for learning purposes? (Chris)

Pete and Stacy will look into whether APH does this.

- Tim Fahlberg, Math Teacher, WCBVI uses 3-D printer

Break: 11:38

Pete asks Stephanie to let WCBVI know how her son is doing with the Forward Exam preparation, etc.

### **PE Requirements for High School Students with Health Restrictions**

- Pete checks with Julie on whether the issue in her district has been resolved. It has not been resolved.
  - District says that the PE class that is offered through the school is the necessary one to graduate
  - For Julie's students, the "adaptive class" is geared more for students with autism
    - To participate in something meaningful is not easy for her VI students

- Pete says that DPI has made no changes, since Aug. 2010, regarding specially designed physical education, and makes clear the responsibility of the district to that student.

#### **What the Laws Say Regarding Specially Designed Physical Education**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) states that students with disabilities receive physical education services, specially designed if necessary, and must be made available to every student with a disability receiving FAPE. If specially designed physical education is prescribed in a student's Individual Education Program (IEP), the school district responsible for the education of that student must provide the services directly or make arrangements for those services to be provided through other public or private programs.

[34 CFR 300.39](#)

[34 CFR 300.108](#)

#### **License Requirements**

In Wisconsin, any licensed (530) physical education teacher may legally teach students with disabilities in regular physical education programs, including providing services for adapted physical education (APE) and specially designed physical education (SDPE). However, if a district seeks to receive payment for physical education teacher salaries from state categorical or federal special education funds, the teacher must also have the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction "Adaptive Physical Education" 860 license.

(This is found on DPI website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics/specially-designed-physical-education> )

- How to provide adaptive and meaningful physical education remains a question

Council advises Julie to speak to the Special Education director for her district regarding this issue

#### **WCBVI Outreach Updates**

Stacy:

- Calendar on Website – (<http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/calendar>); many events coming up
- Vision Program Support Teachers meeting (PST) – next meeting is in Wisconsin Dells on March 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - There are 4 regional meetings total
  - Teachers appreciated these
- Short Courses
  - Many group classes going on (also on website), and individual courses being planned
  - Yerkes and WCBVI collaboratively planned a Short Course
- Apostle Island trip again this year
- Giving of yourself program just finished (12 student participants)
  - Created an opportunity for students who've been on the receiving end of things to "give back"
  - Students and families loved this event and hope to see it happen again

OSEP info regarding serving students with convergence insufficiency

- Clarification on the definition of Convergence Insufficiency and the responsibility of the district and vision teachers when it presents. The family has the right to request a functional vision assessment and services.
- This was discussed at the PST meeting in October

Stacy will forward the OSEP letter to committee

Pete

- WCBVI will be hosting the Experience Programming in Quorum (EPIQ) Workshop this summer (formerly the event was hosted at the University of Washington)
  - EPIQ Workshop: July 23 – August 2; about 60 teachers
  - University of Chicago and Yerkes coming to WCBVI (University of Chicago owns Yerkes)
  - STEM teachers will learn how the EPIQ programming language works for students who are blind or visually impaired
  - Very exciting that WCBVI is working with the University of Chicago and Yerkes. It will help WCBVI and Wisconsin become recognized as leaders in the field of visual impairments
    - Funding (not for profit) by the University of Chicago
- WCBVI Girls and Boys Goal ball teams won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in championship game
- Enrollment numbers
  - DOA is always surprised at the “low” numbers that WCBVI has but we are only 1% of the population
  - Tony King is now coordinating the College and Career Readiness (CCR) program which collaborates with Blackhawk Tech.
  - 167 years for WSBVI
  - LIFEhouse enrollment gone up
  - LIFEhouse discussion:
    - Independent living component was well met with normal on-campus living
    - Good place to do independent living training
    - Has been a resource for short course programs

- Families and teachers don't want to have their kids leave for short courses during the week – so it is worth it to have on the weekends

- Apartments in dorms are also used

- Pete joined the Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB) Board: working on updating the website – Pete feels honored to be asked to be part of board

Julie

- AER of Wisconsin (Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Wisconsin Chapter) donated \$500 to COSB –Treasurer of COSB is looking to do something to commemorate Bill English

### **TVI Training Program Update**

- How do people apply to teach program curriculum?
  - Circulate opening to the field (Stacy hands out Career posting)
  - Looking for a Braille Instructor
  - We will begin intensively promoting the program
- A University of Platteville TVI program feedback committee has assembled
- UW-Platteville TVI program is a small program
  - Need to promote the website
    - Spent time re-vamping website
- Collaborative conference offered some feedback about the TVI program
  - The need for their districts to “grow their own TVI” as a means to promote more TVI's in their district/state
  - Lots of vacancies in state (lots of students not being served and many teachers needed)
- WCBVI has had people talk to Special Education directors to get the word out on the program
- Covers Northern Illinois and Western Michigan
- Most of the program will be covered: but it should be clear to applicants that it is not FULLY funded
  - One student from Iowa (only out-of-state)

Pete will look into reciprocity

- Some districts may be promoting TVI program to their teachers; some offering to fund their tuition for the TVI program

### **Next Advisory Council Meeting:**

- Feb/March – WCBVI

Mandy will send out Google Form for consensus

- June meeting in Madison
- Early Fall – Milwaukee (Milwaukee is closer for many council members)

**Adjourn** 1p.m.